

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

1. (Currently Amended) In a multi-user FWA (fixed wireless access) communication system in which a plurality of subscriber stations are operable to communicate by way of radio links with network infrastructure to which a correspondent node is coupled, an improvement of apparatus for ~~a selected subscriber station of the plurality of subscriber stations at which~~ handling a call of selected call-type is selectably originated at a selected subscriber station of the plurality of subscribers stations, said apparatus comprising:

a call establishment message generator coupled to receive an indication of initiation at the selected subscriber station of origination of the call, said call establishment message generator for generating a call establishment message for communication to the network infrastructure to initiate call set-up procedures precursing a request to establish the call between the selected subscriber station and the correspondent node;

a response detector coupled to receive an indication of a network-infrastructure generated response to the call establishment message generated by said call establishment message generator, said response detector for detecting whether the response to the call establishment message indicates communication resources to be available to establish the call; and

a call set-up emulator coupled to said response detector, said call set-up emulator operable to emulate at the selected subscriber station normal call set-up operations thereat at least for a selected period responsive to detection by said response detector of unavailability of the communication resources to establish the priority call.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said call set-up emulator comprises a dial-tone generator, said dial-tone generator for generating an audio dial-tone at the selected subscriber station responsive to detection by said response detector of the unavailability of the communication resources.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said selected subscriber station comprises a telephonic station having an actuation keypad actuatable by a user to enter dialing digits associated with the correspondent node and wherein generation of the audio dial-tone by said dial-tone generator is terminated upon commencement of entry of the dialing digits.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a dialing-digit signal generator coupled to receive indications of entry of the dialing digits at the actuation keypad said dialing-digit signal generator for generating a dialing-digit indication signal for communication to the network infrastructure pursuant to the request to establish the call between the subscriber station and the correspondent node.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the correspondent node comprises an assistance center having a dialing code formed of dialing digits associated with the assistance center, wherein the call of the selected call-type comprises a priority call, and wherein the dialing-digit signal generated by said dialing-digit signal generator is of values corresponding to the dialing code associated with the assistance center when the user actuates the actuation keypad to cause entry of the dialing digits forming the dialing code associated with the assistance center.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the assistance center comprises an emergency dispatch center having a pseudo-universal dialing code associated therewith, wherein the priority call comprises an emergency call, and wherein the dialing-digit signal generated by said dialing-digit signal generator is of values corresponding to the pseudo-universal dialing code associated with the emergency dispatch center when the user actuates the actuation keypad to cause entry of the dialing digits forming the pseudo-universal dialing code.

7. (Original) In the multi-user FWA communication system of claim 1, a further improvement of apparatus for the network infrastructure, said apparatus comprising;

a call establishment message detector coupled to receive indications of receipt at the network infrastructure of the call establishment message; and

a response generator coupled to said call establishment message detector, said response generator for generating the response to the call establishment message.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a communication resource availability determiner operable responsive to detection of the call establishment message by said call establishment message detector, said communication resource availability determiner for determining whether communication resources are available to establish the call.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the network infrastructure is coupled to the correspondent node by way of a network backbone, and wherein said communication resource availability determiner determines both whether communication resources are available upon the network backbone to establish the call and whether communication resources are available upon the radio links to establish the call.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the subscriber station further sends a dialing digit indication signal to the network infrastructure and wherein said apparatus for the network infrastructure further comprises a dialing digit indication detector coupled to receive indications of receipt at the network infrastructure of the dialing digit indication signal.

11. (Original) The apparatus for the network infrastructure of claim 10 further comprising a resource reallocator coupled to said dialing digit indication detector and to said resource availability determiner, said resource reallocator selectably operable to reallocate communication resources in the multi-user FWA communication system responsive to selected values contained in the dialing digit indication signal detected by said dialing digit indication detector.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the correspondent node comprises an emergency dispatch center having a pseudo-universal dialing code associated therewith, wherein the dialing digit indication signal to which said dialing digit indication detector is coupled to receive indications thereof is of values corresponding to the pseudo-universal dialing code and wherein said resource reallocator reallocates the communication resources to provide communication resources to establish a call between the subscriber station and the emergency dispatch center.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the communication resources of the FWA communication system are utilized pursuant to a plurality of communication resources with a plurality of subscriber stations and wherein reallocation made by said resource reallocator include termination of selected communication resources, thereby to reallocate resources to establish the call between the subscriber station and the emergency dispatch center.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the communication sessions have priority levels associated therewith and wherein selection of termination selected communication sessions is made responsive to the priority levels associated with the communication sessions.